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The Columbian Balance, and Repository.

" HAIL SACRED POLITY, BY FREEDOM REAR'D !
" HAIL SACRED FREEDOM, WHEN BY LAW RESTRAIN'D !"
BEATTIE.

HUDSON, (New-York) TUESDAY, May 10, 1803.

Original Eſſays.

Hither the products of your closet-labors bring,
Enrich our columns, and instruct mankind.

FOR THE BALANCE.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE FEUDAL SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY IN ENGLAND.

IN the 8th century, a warlike people from Jutland, who by reaſon of their northern ſituation, were called Normans, invaded France, and conquered that part of it which bears the name of Normandy. William Duke of Normandy, who was the natural ſon of Robert the former duke, by a tanner's daughter, made an invaſion of England, in the year 1066, with a large fleet and ſixty thouſand men.—In a general battle, which was extremely bloody, he obtained a deciſive victory; ſlew Harold the Engliſh king; conquered the kingdom and uſurped the throne.

William acted the part of an imperious unfeeling conquerer. The nation, that had bended under his yoke, ſuffered every ſpecies of oppreſſion, inſult and indignity. All the old inhabitants of England, who, beſides the natives, were principally the deſcendants of Saxons, Angles, Jutes and Danes, were diſſeized both of their eſtates and offices, which were given to the followers and partiſans of William. He gave, for inſtance, the whole county of Cheſter to Hugh de Abrina, his ſiſter's ſon; nine hundred and ſeventy-three manors and lordſhips, to Robert, Earl of Montague, and four hundred and forty two, to Allan, Earl of Brittany and Richmond, &c. &c.—The whole realm of England came into the poſſeſſion of a few Norman Frenchmen, who exerciſed towards their vaſſals the moſt horrible rapacity and oppreſſion. The Engliſh language was, in a manner, ſuppreſſed; and was ſuperſeded by the general uſe of the French: none, but French ſchools were encouraged or tolerated; and all public acts, all judicial pleas and proceedings, and all deeds and other inſtruments of contract were, during ſeveral following centuries, done in the French language.—The deſcendants of William have poſſeſſed the Britiſh throne even to the preſent day; and moſt of the royal families in Europe have a near affinity of blood with that bold and ſucceſsful uſurper. But the ancient Norman nobility is almoſt extinct; their blood, in ſucceſſive generations, has been poured out on the ſcaffold. During the long and bloody wars between the houſes of York and Lancaſter, which were rivals for the Britiſh throne, there were very few noblemen of either party, who eſcaped death, either in battle or from the hand of the executioner; and, at the ſame time, the eſtates of thoſe who were attainted and executed as traitors, became ſequeſtered; and new families were builded up on their ruins.

Soon after the termination of thoſe long and murderous wars, (about three hundred years ago,) a law, moſt important in its conſequences, was enacted, by which the nobility and gentry acquired a power of breaking the ancient entails, and of alienating their eſtates. " By means of this law, (ſays an eminent hiſtorian,) joined to the beginning luxury and refinements of the age, the great fortunes of the barons were gradually diſſipated, and the property of the commons increaſed in England." In theſe ways, the exorbitant power and wealth of the nobility were conſiderably weakened and diſſipated. The riſe of the commonalty has, however, been principally owing to commerce. Had England been an inland country, the great body of its inhabitants might, even at this day, been transferable as ſtock, like the Heſſians, from one landholder to another, becauſe the lands being in lordſhips, the peaſants or tenants who were originally vaſſals, could have found no way to break the chains of their vaſſalage, and to riſe to any degree of conſequence: but from *commerce* principally, there has riſen in the nation a third order, which poſſeſſes a power equal to that of the king or the nobles. Indeed it would be hazardous for the king and the nobility combined together, to attempt an oppoſition to the united power and influence of the commons.

By means of the immenſe Britiſh navigation, which has been employed in and ſupported by commerce, multitudes of men of the loweſt families have found opportunities of riſing to great eminence; while merchants and manufacturers at home, by their ſkill and enterprize, have emerged from their original obſcurity; have made their fortunes, and been able to vie with the nobility in wealth and ſplendor. At the ſame time, men of learning and brilliant talents, eſpecially if they bended their minds to the ſtudies of juriſprudence, have, from a low and obſcure original, become conſpicuous and principal actors in the grand drama of national politics.

Thus the feudal ſyſtem in England, tho' originally much more deſpotic and oppreſſive than in moſt other European countries, has been, in a manner, checked and balanced. The modern hereditary nobility ſeldom diſcover a great degree of capacity or enterpriſe.—Proudly relying on their wealth and titles; nurſed in the lap of ſloth, & enervated by debaucheries, they are uſually deficient in that energy and thoſe talents, which are requiſite for the diſpatch of weighty buſineſs. The younger ſons of noblemen, together with many others of ſhining talents, who ſprung from common families, have, in latter years, been principally employed on the venerable ſeats of juſtice, and as counſellors, miniſters of ſtate and diplomatic agents.

W.

Political.

FROM THE CHARLESTON COURIER.

IT would take a long and laborious life, to collect into one maſs, and diſplay in their true colours, the endleſs inconſiſtencies and contradictions of the anti-federal politicians and advocates. Here they are found parading in fine robes, borrowed from the federal party when in office—there we ſee them ſtrutting in their own dowlas and tinſel. Here contradicting evident matter of fact, there contradicting themſelves. Yeſterday aſſerting that black is white, to-day that white is black. Now denying to the late adminiſtration the ſmalleſt particle of merit—again, in the eagerneſs and impetuoſity of ſelf-applauſe, confeſſing what they ſo denied.

But this inconſiſtency in inferior agents is harmleſs, when compared with that diſplayed by the leading man of the country. The people of America are ſo well aquainted with the ſentiments of our Preſident, and his partizans in the ſenate, on the ſubject of the judiciary ſyſtem, that it would be uſeleſs treſpaſs on the time of our readers to repeat them: They have ſeen that judiciary receive a ſevere wound; they have ſeen its right called in queſtion and denied; and a majority of the Legiſlature deciding in conformity to the arguments and principles of thoſe who denied it. Now let them compare thoſe opinions with the principles laid down in 1776 by our Preſident himſelf—(then plain Mr. *Jefferſon*)—in a letter to Judge *Wythe*, of Virginia, written in reply to one from that Judge to him, when the Conſtitution was forming.

THE EXTRACT.

"The dignity and ſtability of govern-
"ment in all its branches, the morals of
"the people, and every bleſſing of ſocie-
"ty, depend ſo much upon an upright and
"ſkilful adminiſtration of juſtice, that the
"judicial power ought to be diſtinct from
"both the legiſlature and executive, and
"*independant* upon both, that ſo it may
"be a *check* upon both, as both ſhould be
"checks upon that. The judges, there-
"fore, ſhould always be men of learning
"and experience in the laws, of exempla-
"ry morals, great patience, calmneſs and
"attention; their minds ſhould not be
"*diſtracted with jarring intereſts*; they
"ſhould not be *dependent upon any man,*
"*or body of men.* To theſe ends they
"ſhould hold *eſtates for life* in their offi-
"ces, or, in other words, their commiſ-
"ons ſhould be *during good behavior,*
"and their ſalaries aſcertained and eſtab-
"liſhed by law.

"For *miſbehaviour*, the grand inqueſt
"of the colony, the houſe of repreſenta-
"tives, ſhould impeach them before the
"governor and council, when they ſhould
"have time and opportunity to make their
"defence; but *if convicted*, ſhould be *re-*
"*moved* from their offices, and ſubjected
"to ſuch other puniſhment as ſhall be
"thought proper."

TH: JEFFERSON.

Now how is this change of opinion to be accounted for? Was Mr. Jefferſon ſo young and inexperienced in 1776, that he was incapable of making up his mind upon principles? Certainly not—and that opinion of his, is a proof of it; for ſo far as it goes, it is a juſt one; indeed ſo juſt that he could hardly look into a book upon the ſubject of conſtitutional rights, where the ſame principle is not laid down. Then what can it be, but a determination to make every principle bend to the purpoſes of party, and to his political deſigns? The people will know what value to ſet upon men who can thus play *faſt and looſe* with principles, as it ſuits their convenience, and anſwers their private views.

FROM THE PORT FOLIO.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,

THE two letters which have been officially publiſhed, from the Marquis de Caſa Yrujo, to the Secretary of State, and from the citizen Pichon to the governor of Louiſiana, muſt be truly gratifying to the feelings of every genuine American. If they are not abſolutely concluſive to prove that the intendant of New-Orleans acted without authority from his Court, in depriving our citizens of their right of depoſit there, at leaſt they give us ſubſtantial reaſon to expect that the enjoyment of this right will immediately be reſtored to us; that the procedure of the intendant will be ſolemnly diſavowed by his ſovereign, and that ample ſatisfaction will be made to the United States for the inſult, as well as for the injury they have ſuffered by his order.

The friends of our adminiſtration have been ready, as might naturally be expected, to take great credit to themſelves for theſe apologetic papers, from the two foreign miniſters. To the nation it is of no immediate importance what was the really operative cauſe which induced the Marquis, and, what is yet more, the Citizen, thus to humble themſelves, and their governments, before the riſing ſpirit of our country. But it may fairly be remarked, that theſe diplomatic baſſams were not applied, nor even prepared, until the meaſures propoſed by the minority, in both houſes of Congreſs, and the general exaſperation of the public, out of doors, had forced our reluctant Executive into the opinion, that all was not peace and friendſhip towards us, abroad—had compelled him to aſſume ſome appearance of that vigour, which manifeſted itſelf, in ſuch energy, throughout the country, and had obliged his adherents, in the national ſenate and houſe of repreſentatives, to ſubſtitute, at leaſt, ſomething, for the ſpirited reſolutions and efficacious meaſures propoſed by Mr. Griſwold and Mr. Roſs. Had the minority in Congreſs, and the people in general, been as tame and indifferent, under the conduct of the Spaniſh intendant as the head of the Union appeared to be, until laſhed into exertion by his political opponents at home, we ſhould, in all probability, not have ſeen, at this day, thoſe humble deprecations of the Marquis, and thoſe anxious expoſtulations of citizen Pichon, which have ornamented the columns of our newſpapers.

Viewing the ſubject in this light, the real American patriot muſt rejoice at that ſenſibility, and that vigour, which flowing from the circumference to the centre, inſpired the government with animation not its own, and ſhamed our national rulers into ſomething like reſiſtance. They have, indeed, while hurried along by the torrent of univerſal feeling, complained that it was ruſhing into war. But thoſe letters, which they now publiſh, exhibit lucid demonſtration, that a bold and undaunted ſpirit was the true line of pacific policy, no leſs than of national honour.

There is a moſt eſſential advantage which the Union will derive from the temper diſplayed by the *minority*, in Congreſs, and by the great majority of the people on this occaſion. The Marquis tells the Secretary of State that, from the firſt, he was ſatisfied the intendant's order was unauthoriſed; but, to remedy this acknowledged injuſtice and injury, he then only *remonſtrated* to the intendant, and *diſpatched* a letter to the governor general, at the Havanna. The reſult of theſe ex-

pedients has ſhewn their inefficacy. "But *now*, (ſays the Marquis,) I ſhall take upon myſelf to adopt meaſures which muſt *inſure* to the United States, the enjoyment of all the rights ſtipulated in the twenty-ſecond article of the treaty, ON THE *arrival at New-Orleans of the diſpatches, which will be forwarded under this date.* [*March* 10, 1803.]

If it is in the power of the Marquis, now, to interfere, in a manner paramount to the authority of the intendant, and to open the navigation of the river, notwithſtanding any oppoſition by him, it muſt have been equally in the Marquis's power to have done the ſame thing, when he diſpatched his firſt letter of remonſtrance; that is in December laſt. If ſuch was *then* his power, why did he not exert it? Mr. Jefferſon has told us, that the produce, from our Weſtern country, has uſually deſcended the river in February. Had the Marquis's firſt diſpatch to the intendant been peremptory—had his meaſures *then* been ſuch as to inſure our enjoyment of our ſtipulated rights, the obſtruction would have been removed, ſo that the produce might have come in its accuſtomed period. By delaying his irreſiſtible injunctions until the 10th of March, the Marquis has co-operated with the intendant to deprive us of the benefit of navigating the Miſſiſſippi for one entire ſeaſon, and, by the acknowledgment that this obſtruction was "without the colour of a pretext," he has recognized the claim of the United States upon his maſter for ample indemnity from this injury. It is to be hoped that our government will properly inſiſt upon, and obtain this indemnity; that they will take the benefit of that dignified and honourable ſpirit manifeſted by the country, however aſhamed they may be to acknowledge it; that they will ſee and avail themſelves of this demonſtration, that the way to obtain juſtice, from foreign nations, is to diſplay the firm reſolution to obtain it.

When *they* conſidered the occluſion of New Orleans as the mere unauthoriſed act of the intendant, it ſeems the only thing they thought of aſking from the Marquis was to *remonſtrate*, to *diſpatch a letter*. And the good Marquis, who knew very well he could do more; that he could, if he pleaſe, interpoſe with meaſures which ſhould *inſure* to the United States the enjoyment of their rights, was by no means diſpoſed to works of ſupererogation—He did what they required of him, and attempted nothing more. Mr. Jefferſon, ever willing to repoſe upon the pillows of peace, ever lending a ready ear to the ſoothing lullabies of the dulcimer, and ever ſhrinking with horror from the hoarſe excitements of the trumpet, and the rattling terrors of the drum, was content to wait the iſſue of remonſtrance, and, in the meantime, formally to boaſt, in a ſpeech to Congreſs, of the continuance of peace and friendſhip abroad. Is there a man in theſe United States who can believe, that if the notice taken by our government and nation of this flagrant outrage committed by the Spaniard, had reſted there, we ſhould ever have ſeen the Marquis's letter, of the 10th of March or citizen Pichon's letter to the governor of Louiſiana? If there be, it is ſurely a man who judges of events by other principles than thoſe of experience, and of men by other foundations than their conduct. No, Sir. There is an internal evidence in the very hiſtory of theſe tranſactions, which ſpeaks louder than all political prejudices, or all ſophiſtical argument. While the rulers of our nation were tame and puſillanimous, and humbly intreated the Marquis to *remonſtrate*, to *diſpatch a letter*, to——do nothing at all; their ſucceſs was exactly correſpondent to their expedients. The intendant received the miniſter's remonſtrance, and treated them with affected contempt. When the temper of the nation was apparently rouſed, when the minority in both houſes of Congreſs had ſuggeſted and advocated meaſures rather more energetic, when the French and Spaniſh miniſters became convinced, that the nation would act with more vigour than its Executive dared to ſpeak, then we ſee them both not only take the proper ſteps to remove our cauſe of complaint for the future, but conſent to the publication of their letters, to calm, by apologies and excuſes, the riſing, and juſt indignation of the American people.

Balance Closet.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

No. X.

IT is deemed unnecessary to add any comments concerning Mr. Spencer's attempt to shackle the press with previous restraints, by laying the junior editor under heavy bonds to keep the peace and be of good behaviour. The fact speaks for itself; and Mr. Spencer's motives are well understood. Had the object been attained, the junior editor would have been debarred from following his business, unless he would have consented to act the part of a democratic printer, and never publish any TRUTH concerning the officers of government. One circumstance, however, is deserving of notice. It should be recollected, that Mr. Spencer contended for laying the defendant under the above-mentioned bonds on the ground that he was a *libeller*; and that, tho' he had not been convicted of publishing a libel, still that the grand jury having found a bill against him, was a *strong presumptive proof* that he was a libeller. Now, if the reader will also recollect how a certain grand jury was once formed, and how a certain bill was once *found*, he will be enabled to discover a "*strong presumptive proof*" of duplicity (not to call it by a worse name) in the character of a certain great man.

What will be the final result of the proſecutions againſt the junior editor, we know not; nor do we wiſh, at preſent, to hazard a conjecture. His caſe involves a queſtion of great magnitude; and on its deciſion reſts, in a degree, the Liberty of the Preſs. It is a queſtion in which every member of the community is deeply intereſted; for if the publiſhing of truth concerning the elective officers of our government is a crime, puniſhable by every inferior ſtate court, the preſs is in ſerious danger. *Silence* or *falſhood* muſt be the only reſort; and in ſuch a ſituation of affairs, how long can the people expect to retain their liberty?

But we muſt indulge a hope that Mr. Spencer's attempts will be unavailing. Whatever may be our own fate, we are ſtill compelled to believe, that our Attorney-General cannot even by the weight of all his power and influence, prevent the circulation of truth among the people. Nay! we believe it is as much impoſſible for him to ſmother the voice of truth, as it is to ſtifle the inward whiſpers of conſcience. The firſt will, in thundering accents, addreſs him in public, whilſt the latter will hover round his pillow, and haunt his private reflections. He may poſſibly, by multiplied and malignant perſecutions, cruſh one preſs—he may deſtroy one paper—he may ruin one printer. And does he imagine, after he has done this, that his conduct will be ſecure from ſcrutiny? No! Let him reſt aſſured, that, however grating it may be to the ears of tyrants, THE TRUTH MUST BE TOLD! and the deſtruction of an individual cannot arreſt its progreſs.

An attempt to ſhackle the preſs is but a miſerable proof of a man's integrity. Surely, the plant that ſhrinks from the rays of the ſun, muſt have ſprung up in a *cloudy day*, or under cover of the *darkneſs of night*. So the man who ſhudders at the voice of truth, can thrive only when the political horizon is overſpread with clouds, or when darkneſs and deluſion overſhadow the earth.

The wiſe, the honeſt and truth-telling Bee, ſays,

"The federal party exulted mightily and croaked
"loudly, at the failure of the attorney general at the
"laſt election. How will they bear the mortifica-
"tion of loſing the election of Mr. Van Neſs?"

It is ſtrange that our potent attorney-general cannot keep the Bee from running its head into ſuch unlucky ſcrapes. Even Mr. Spencer's political enemies have forborne to ſay a word about laſt year's election; but ſince Mr. Holt will be meddling, he muſt be noticed—Laſt year, Mr. Spencer was placed on the democratic ticket to give it *weight*—the *weight* was ſo great that the whole ticket *ſunk* under it, and the attorney-general was actually the *loweſt* of the ſide, by a number of votes. This year, Mr. Van Neſs had the *higheſt* number of votes, on the federal ticket; and indeed the whole number of votes given for him were ſufficient to carry his election; but by placing ſeveral ballots in the wrong box, and omitting the W in others, he failed.

It was not in the year 1803 that a candidate for member of aſſembly, gave a FIVE DOLLAR BILL for——*a very honorable purpoſe.*

Agricultural.

FOR THE BALANCE.

ON WASHING AND CLEANSING THE STEMS OF FRUIT TREES.

ROBERT MARSHUM, Esq. (England) having mentioned ſome experiments which he made in waſhing trees, obſerves, that all the ingredients in vegetation united, which are received from the roots, ſtem, branches and leaves of a moſſy and dirty tree, do not produce half the increaſe which another receives, whoſe ſtem is well cleanſed. He thinks it clear that this greater ſhare of nouriſhment cannot come from rain; becauſe the dirty ſtem will retain the moiſture longer than when clean; and the nouriſhment drawn from the roots, and imbibed by the branches and leaves muſt be the ſame to both trees.

It is the opinion of this writer, that a great ſhare of vegetative ingredient is conveyed in dew: that the moſs and dirt, which ſurround the ſtems of trees, abſorb the fineſt particles of the dew; and alſo act as a kind of ſcreen in depriving the tree of that ſhare of air and ſun which it requires.

Monitorial Department.

To aid the cause of virtue and religion.

FOR THE BALANCE.

ON THE DREAD OF THUNDER.

BEASTS diſcover a conſciouſneſs of danger at the approach of a thunder-tempeſt: they leave their food; and their looks and poſtures betray ſymptoms of fear and amazement. But birds, ſhielded from the fatal bolts by their feathers, are fearleſs. While the thunder roars, and the dark and heavy cloud is moving on towards them, they are often ſeen in a playful frolickſome mood. *Both* are guided by an unerring inſtinct. Beaſts are ſometimes ſtruck dead by lightning: they are in real danger; and have therefore cauſe to fear. But lightning, which has power to rive the ſtrongeſt oaks, and even the hardeſt rocks, ſeldom, if ever, paſſes between the feathers, and pierces the bodies of birds.* The *latter*, as if conſcious of their ſafety; and, at the ſame time, exhilarated by the change of air, that begins to be purified and ſweetened by exploſions from the gathering clouds, diſcover marks of glee: and they have indeed real cauſe for their expreſſions of joy.

Man, exalted by reaſon, and ſtill more by religion, ſhould in this, as in all other reſpects, act a higher part than the beaſts of the field and the fowls of the air. A thunder-tempeſt preſents one of the ſublimeſt ſcenes in nature; and its ſublimity is blended with a degree of awfulneſs proportionate to the danger to which it expoſes the precious life of man. A thoughtleſs, and much more, a frolickſome levity, during ſuch a ſcene, tho' becoming birds, would be highly unbecoming men and women. On the other hand, they ſhould not diſcover the ſtupid amazement, or the frantic fright of brutes.

Thunder and lightning are neceſſary agents in the grand operations of nature: they are "miniſters of good" to mankind; and their general tendency is to ſave life, rather than to deſtroy it. By killing noxious vapours, and clarifying and ſweetening the air, they render it wholſome, and prevent the ſpread of peſtilence and other mortal diſeaſes. For one perſon, deſtroyed by lightning, thouſands and hundreds of thouſands would be deſtroyed by poiſons and mortal contagions in the atmoſphere, if this powerful inſtrument to cleanſe it were never uſed.

The fear ariſing from thunder-ſtorms ſhould therefore be, in a manner, loſt in gratitude for the general good, which they occaſion: and parents inſtead of ſetting before their children, on ſuch occaſions, an example of conſternation and wild affright, which would tend to render them miſerable through life, ſhould endeavour to fortify their minds by arguments drawn from reaſon, philoſophy and religion.

**It is the practice of ſome people always to riſe from their beds, when thunder tempeſts happen during the night-ſeaſon; whereas a bed, filled with feathers, is the ſafeſt ſituation that can be found.*

APHORISM.—He, who is led by the paſſionate, has three enemies to cope with during life—the contempt of the good, the tyranny of his leaders, and rankling diſcontent.—*Lavater.*

Medical.

From Poulson's American Daily Advertiser.

IMPORTANT.

How to vaccinate several hundred persons with the matter of a single ordinary Vaccine Pock.

A MEMBER of the London Vaccine Institution mixed the fluid of a ſingle cow-pock with a drachm meaſure of water of about the temperature of 70 of Farenheit. Of *three* ſubjects vaccinated with this diluted matter, *two* took the diſeaſe in the uſual way. The remaining *third* was vaccinated in each arm, with one puncture with this diluted matter, and alſo in each arm, in like manner, with undiluted vaccine matter, but all theſe four punctures failed to produce the diſeaſe, the ſubject being an adult, and probably having had the ſmall pox.

The above is extracted from Tillok's Philoſophical Magazine, and is of ſo much importance to extend the bleſſings of vaccination, that the Printers of Newſpapers it is hoped will generally republiſh this article.

The vaccine inoculation continues to make rapid progreſs in Spain and Italy. In Catalonia, 7000 perſons were inoculated in the courſe of nine months; and by its means, the fatal ravages of the ſmall pox have been ſtopped in the department of Milla, where, during three months only, 12,000 perſons have ſubmitted to the vaccine operation.

[*Monthly Magazine for December*, 1802.

Diſcoveries,

USEFUL AND CURIOUS.

From DOMESTIC ENCYCLOPEDIA.

MR. BOULARD, architect at Lyons, has lately invented a very ſimple preparation, attended with little expence or trouble, and admirably calculated to defend wooden materials from being conſumed by flames, though expoſed to their influence for two hours. After many tedious experiments, he found that a ſolution of pot-aſh is the moſt efficacious liquid for reſiſting the action of fire, longer than any other fluid. That obſervation induced him to apply that ſubſtance in a kind of paint or coating on wood, which was completely rendered fire-proof, in the following eaſy manner: diſſolve ſuch a quantity of potaſh in cold water as that fluid is capable of holding in ſolution, waſh or daub with it all the boards,

wainſcoating, ſhingles, &c. which are intended to be prepared. Then dilute the ſame liquor with a little water ; add to it ſuch a portion of fine yellow clay as will make the mixture of the conſiſtence of the common paint employed on wood ; and laſtly, ſtir it into a ſmall quantity of flour paſte, in order to combine both ſubſtances intimately. With this mixture all wooden materials ought to be coated three or four times, ſimilar to painted work. Thus, wood will be ſecured from the action of fire, though expoſed to it for a time exceeding two hours ; but the greateſt advantage of this excellent preparation conſiſts in the circumſtance, that it prevents the wood from ever burſting into flames. M. Boulard remarks, that 20 lbs. ſifted yellow clay, 1 1-2lb. of flour for making the paſte, and 1lb. pot-aſh, are ſufficient to prepare a ſquare rood (French meaſure and weight) of deal boards ; ſo that the expences, when compared with the importance of the object, are indeed trifling. It is further deſerving of notice, that even furniture made of wood, ſuch as chairs, tables, &c. and particularly the ſtair-caſes and flooring of dwelling-houſes, may be ſo far enabled to reſiſt the ravages of the fire, that they are only reduced to coals, or embers, without ſpreading the conflagration by additional flames : meanwhile, there are gained at leaſt, two hours, during which, all valuable effects may be removed to a place of ſafety, and the lives of the family at the ſame time, reſcued from danger.

FROM THE AMERICAN MUSEUM.

METHOD OF STAINING WOOD IN IMITATION OF MAHOGANY.

TAKE a piece of elm or of plane ; ſtain it well with aquefortis : then take two drams of powdered dragon's blood, one dram of alkanet root, and half a dram of aloes : from theſe extract a tincture with half a pint of ſpirits of wine : with a ſponge dipt in this tincture waſh the wood two or three times, and you will give it the colour of fine old mahogany.

But may not wood be more uniformly and durably coloured, whilſt growing ?— It is a well known fact, that madder-roots give a permanent colour to the bones of animals that feed on them. Now, as the tubes, by which trees derive their nouriſhment from the earth, are analagous to the mouths of animals, it is not unlikely that the curious naturaliſt, who will endeavour to convey coloured juices into the bodies of trees through this channel, may have the pleaſure of ſeeing his experiments attended with the deſired ſucceſs.

Miſcellany.

HUMOUROUS STORY.

A certain governor of Egypt having occaſion for a ſum of money, fell upon the following moſt extraordinary method to raiſe it.

He iſſued out an order, commanding the chief of all the Jews* ſettled in Egypt to appear before him on a certain day ; on their being conducted into his preſence, they found him ſurrounded with his Divan or Council, and the Pentateuch in his hand —he then aſked them if they believed all that was written in that book, to which they replied that they did, ſaying that it contained the precepts of their religion, on which he turned to and read the 11th and 12th chapters of Exodus, in which is recorded the account of the Jews', juſt before their departure out of Egypt, borrowing of the Egyptians their jewels of gold, ſilver &c.

When he had finiſhed, he told them that ſince they had confeſſed their forefathers had about 3000 years ago borrowed of the forefathers of the Egyptains their jewels &c. he had ſent for them to know if thoſe things had ever been returned, or ſatisfaction made for them : if not, he added, that it was now high time payment ſhould be made, and that he, being the political father of that people, he was in duty bound to ſee that they had juſtice done them.

The poor aſtoniſhed Jews ſtood ſilent and knew not what to ſay, though they immediately ſaw through the drift of the avaricious Governor. He, after waiting ſome time for an anſwer, diſmiſſed them, but ordered them again before him in a few weeks, telling them that he gave them that time to deliberate and to ſearch their records, and ſee whether or not they had ever returned or made ſatisfaction to the Egyptians for the jewels they had borrowed.

When the Jews had retired, they, after conſulting among themſelves how to ward off the blow, came to the reſolution of raiſing a large ſum of money, with which, on the day appointed they waited on the governor, and told him that ſince the time their forefathers had borrowed thoſe things of the Egyptians, their nation had undergone various revolutions, their temple had been burnt, and their records deſtroyed, ſo that it was impoſſible for them now to tell whether or not the Egyptians had ever received ſatisfaction for their jewels, and preſenting him with the money, added, that they hoped he would not make hem, who were but a few, accountable for what the whole nation did ſo many thouſand years ago.

This being all the governor wanted he took their money, for which he gave them (in the name of the Egyptians) a receipt in part payment for the borrowed jewels, and ſo left the ſame door open for any of his ſucceſſors, who may think proper to take the ſame ſteps to ſqueeze that poor unfortunate people.

** Great numbers of Jews have been ſettled in Egypt for upwards of 200 years, and Dr. Pococke informs us that when he was in the country in 1737, they had no leſs than 37 ſynagogues in Grand Cairo only.*

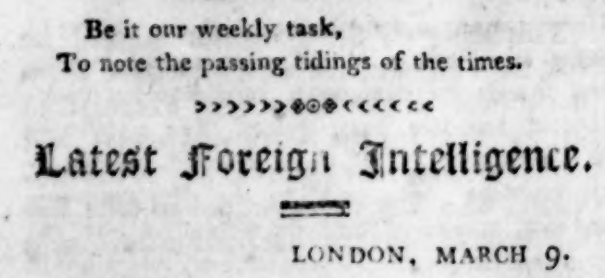
Hiſtorical Sketches.

AMONG all the inſtances of horrid ferocity in battle, perhaps there is none ſurpaſſes the following.

In the year 1512, Henry VIII. King of England, ſent out an Engliſh fleet under Admiral Knevet, which coaſted near the French ſhores. This fleet having committed ſome depredations, a French fleet, diſpatched by Francis King of France, iſſued from Breſt, under the command of Admiral Premauget. An engagement between them begun ; and fire preſently ſeized the ſhip of the French Admiral, who finding his deſtruction inevitable, bore down upon the veſſel of the Engliſh Admiral, and grappling with her, reſolved to make her ſhare his fate. In this ſituation, while the flames were conſuming both veſſels, their reſpective crews continued the horrid combat, in ſight of both fleets which ſtood aloof from the awful engagement : and their furious ſhouts continued to be heard, till at laſt the French veſſel blew up, and at the ſame time deſtroyed the Engliſh.

LIBRARIES.

AMONGST modern libraries, the four largeſt are ſuppoſed to be the Emperor's at Vienna ; the Vatician library ; the library of the Grand Duke of Tuſcany, at Florence, and that now belonging to the French Republic, at Paris. Of ancient libraries, the Alexandrian was the moſt celebrated. Among the other ancient libraries, that of Lucullus is ſaid to have been very conſiderable, as was alſo that of Trajan, which was called after him the Ulpian library. But one of the moſt elegant was that founded at Rome by Simonicus, preceptor of the Emperor Gordianus. It is ſaid to have contained 8000 ſelect volumes, and that the appartment in which they were depoſited was paved with gilt marble. The walls were compoſed of glaſs and ivory ; and the ſhelves, caſes, preſſes, and deſks, made of ebony and cedar. [*Lady's Monitor.*]



Be it our weekly task,
To note the passing tidings of the times.

Latest Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON, MARCH 9.

MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer ſhortly after he entered the Houſe, placed himſelf at the Bar, and brought up the following Meſſage from his Majeſty :

GEORGE R.

" His Majeſty thinks it neceſſary to acquaint the Houſe of Commons, that as very conſiderable military preparations are carrying on in the Ports of France and Holland, he has judged it expedient to adopt additional meaſures of precaution for the ſecurity of his Dominions. Tho' the precautions to which his Majeſty refers, are avowedly directed to Colonial ſervice, yet as diſcuſſions of great importance are now ſubſiſting between his Majeſty and the French Government, the reſult of which muſt at preſent be uncertain, his Majeſty is induced to make this communication to his faithful Commons, in the full perſuaſion that, whilſt they partake of his Majeſty's earneſt and unvarying ſolicitude for the continuance of Peace, he may rely with perfect confidence in their public ſpirit and liberality to enable his Majeſty to adopt ſuch meaſures as circumſtances may appear to require, for ſupporting the honour of his Crown, and the eſſential intereſts of his people.

" G. R."

As ſoon as the Meſſage was read from the Chair,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer obſerved, that he thought it his duty to abſtain at preſent from any particular reference to the gracious Meſſage which he had juſt delivered to the H uſe from his Majeſty, and that he merely roſe, to move that the Houſe do take it into conſideration to-morrow morning.

MARCH 11.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer yeſterday delivered the following Meſſage from his Majeſty to the Houſe of Commons :

GEORGE R.

" In conſequence of the preparations carrying on in the ports of France and Holland, while important diſcuſſions are ſubſiſting between his Majeſty and the French government, his Majeſty thinks it due to the care and concern which he feels for his faithful people, to omit no means in his power which may contribute to their ſecurity.

" In purſuance, therefore, of the acts of parliament enabling his Majeſty to call out and aſſemble the Militia of the United Kingdom, his Majeſty has thought it right to make this communication to the Houſe of Commons, to the end that his Majeſty may cauſe the ſaid militia, or ſuch part thereof as his Majeſty ſhall think neceſſary, to be forthwith drawn out and embodied, and to march as occaſion ſhall require.

" G. R."

MARCH 17.

A circumſtance of a very extraordinary nature tranſpired yeſterday, which, however, made no noiſe or impreſſion on the city. On Tueſday night, at half paſt 10 o'clock, a perſon arrived expreſs at the Admiralty from Brighton, with an account of a French veſſel having drifted on ſhore near that place ; ſhe had it ſeems been deſerted by the crew, except a boy, and having been boarded, was found to be laden with about 100,000 ſtand of arms. Before the crew left her, they threw a box on ſhore near Shoreham and found to contain *ſtands of green colours*, ſuited to the Iriſh. Theſe colours had the word *Union* on them, and we have heard it ſtated, with a French and Iriſh hand united underneath. This is the account which was in general circulation ; ſome ſaid the ſhip was found off Cork. The Admiralty was yeſterday engaged in examining green colours of the nature alluded to, but we doubt the reports of the quantity of arms. Thoſe who have been able to inveſtigate all the circumſtances, can judge whether this ſhip be a ſtratagem or not. Nothing is more likely than that Bonaparte would ſend a veſſel with arms, &c. apparently for the Iriſh rebels, but really deſtined to fall into our hands to create alarm, and have an influence on the negociation. At the ſame time it is not to be forgotten, that nothing is more likely than that Bonaparte would ſend the Iriſh rebels ſuccour if the fears expreſſed in the King's meſſage be founded.

MARCH 19.

A Meſſenger arrived at a late hour on Thurſday night, with diſpatches from our Ambaſſador at Par s. As their nature has not tranſpired, it is preſumed that the anſwer was not deciſive, and the hopes of continued peace encreaſe with every hour of delay. We are well informed, that the Firſt Counſul was in every reſpect unprepared for His Majeſty's Meſſage to Parliament, and the remonſtrance of our Government of the ſame date.

EXTRACT OF A PRIVATE LETTER.

PARIS, MARCH 14.

" There was yeſterday, as uſual, a grand circle at the Thuilleries. The Ambaſſadors of the different powers were in the Saloon, with a numerous aſſemblage of ſtrangers and ladies of diſtinction, Generals, Senators, Tribunes, Legiſlators, &c. &c.

Bonaparte entered with an unuſual alertneſs of manner, and after ſaluting the company, he addreſſed himſelf to Lord Whitworth in a tone ſufficiently loud to be heard by all who were preſent.—" You know, my Lord, that a terrible ſtorm has ariſen between England and France."

Lord Whitworth.—" Yes, General Conſul, but it is to be hoped that this ſtorm will be diſſipated without any ſerious conſequence."

Bonaparte.—" It will be diſſipated when England ſhall have evacuated Malta. If not, the cloud will burſt, and the bolt muſt fall. The King of England has promiſed by Treaty to evacuate that place, and who is to violate the faith of treaties ?"

Lord Whitworth (ſurpriſed on finding himſelf queſtioned in this manner, and before ſo many perſons)—But you know, General Conſul, the circumſtances which have hitherto delayed the evacuation of Malta. The intention of my Sovereign is to fulfil the Treaty of Amiens; and you alſo know———"

Bonaparte.—" You know (with impetuoſity) that the French have carried on the war for ten years, and you cannot doubt but that they are in a condition to wage it again. Inform your court, that if, on the receipt of your diſpatches, orders are not iſſued for the immediate ſurrender of Malta, then *war is declared*. I declare my firm reſolution is, to ſee the Treaty carried into effect, and leave it to the ambaſſadors of the ſeveral powers who are preſent, to ſay who is in the wrong. You flattered yourſelves that France would not dare to ſhew her reſentment whilſt her ſquadrons were at St. Domingo. I am happy thus publicly to undeceive you on that head.

Lord Whitworth.—" But General, the negociation is not yet broken, and there is even reaſon to believe—"

Bonaparte —" Of what negociation does your Lordſhip ſpeak ? Is it neceſſary to negociate what is conceded by treaty—to negociate the fulfilment of engagements and the duties of good faith. (Lord W. was about to reply, Bonaparte made a ſign with his hand, and continued in a leſs elevated tone)—My Lord, your Lady is indiſpoſed. She may moſt probably breathe her native air rather ſooner than you or I expected. I wiſh moſt ardently for peace, but if my juſt demand be not inſtantly complied with, then war muſt follow, and God will decide.

If treaties are not ſufficient to bind to peace, then the vanquiſhed muſt not be left in a condition to offer injury."

Here this unexpected *converſation* terminated, if that term may be allowed, where the diſcourſe was almoſt wholly on one ſide.

Bonaparte afterwards walked up and down the hall, and diſcourſed with ſeveral perſons with an aſſumed air of gaiety. To the Engliſh, however, who met his eye, his regards were limited to a cold ſalute.

LONDON, MARCH 23.

Our preparations have produced the effect of ſtopping the ſailing of the Louiſiana expedition, and of the Dutch ſquadron, under Vice Admiral Hartſinck. On Friday laſt, a courier arrived at the French Ambaſſador's, at the Hague, with orders, that the ſquadron for Louiſiana ſhould remain in port, and that the troops ſhould be cantoned at Helvoet till further orders.—The expedition was to have ſailed to-day.

Admiral Lord Gardner arrived at Portſmouth yeſterday, and is to hoiſt his flag to-day on board the Neptune.

Admiral Lord Keith is very actively employed at Plymouth in ſuperintending the fitting out of the ſhips, A great number of prime ſeamen have entered within theſe few days.

It has been rumoured that in conſequence of the Firſt Conſul's behaviour to Lord Whitworth, at the audience on Sunday ſe'nnight, his Lordſhip has intimated to the Miniſter for Foreign Affairs, that he ſhall not attend the Conſular Levees, without a proper explanation of the events of that day. His Lordſhip acts with proper ſpirit. An inſult to our Ambaſſador is an inſult to the Britiſh nation, and an ample apology ought to be demanded for it.

A Cabinet Council ſat ſeveral hours yeſterday upon the diſpatches received from France.

"By letters from Frankfort of the 10th of March, we are informed (ſay the Paris papers which we received yeſterday) that the Engliſh merchants in Germany diſcover the utmoſt jealouſy and uneaſineſs in regard to the endeavours of the French to revive their trade with that country.—They view with indignation the new trading eſtabliſhments in different ports. They blame France for the care with which Spain now endeavours to protect her manufactures, by prohibiting the exportation of Spaniſh wool. They ſee, with all the feelings of malicious envy, the vigorous meaſures taken on the Scheldt and Rhine to prevent the importation of Engliſh manufactures; the encouragement given to thoſe who attempt a ſmuggling trade into England, and that declaration of Cherburgh to be a free port for liqueres and brandy, which is likely to produce a large exportation of theſe articles to the oppoſite coaſts of England and Ireland. The eſtabliſhment too of Chambers, and of a General Council of Commerce in France, has given food for Engliſh envy. They are ſtill in alarm in regard to colonel Sebaſtiana, and they talk of the ceſſion of the port of Tetuan, and of the fortifications of Tournehout, at the mouth of the Scheldt, to France. They will ſuppoſe that a ſquadron of two ſhips of war and ſeveral tranſports has failed to take poſſeſſion of Macoa, ceded to France by Portugal."

There is ſaid to be now a very frequent correſpondence between Berlin and Paris, relating to an approaching interview between the King of Pruſſia and the Firſt Conſul, when the latter viſits Belgium.

When the dates of the affair at the Cape of Good Hope are examined, it would appear that the preſent preparations for war have not been too precipitate. From the time the diſpatches were ſent out to forbid the ſurrender, we may reckon on five months *difference* with the French Government about *ſomething or other*, independent of Malta, which appears a more recent cauſe of diſpute.

Like maſter, like man. Talleyrand, as well as his Sovereign, can be inſolent to the Miniſters of thoſe States degraded by their French connection, or weakened by French intrigues; but he was far from approving of the violence offered towards the Repreſentative of the King of the firſt Nation upon earth: he, therefore, with all humility, entreated his Maſter to make it up. His maxim is, that until France has a Navy equal to that of Britain, the Chief Conſul muſt ſink his pretenſions to be the modern Alexander, and content himſelf, with reſpect to England, to act a la-Philippe. His advice, however, was ſo ill received, that he gave in his reſignation, and for twenty-four hours rumour appointed him different ſucceſſors, ſuch as Segur, Otte, Calliard, &c.; but while the public were thus buſy, Bonaparte invited Talleyrand to dine with him in private, and, after ſome explanation, returned him his Miniſterial Port-feuille, and he is, at preſent, again the firſt favorite of the Firſt Conſul.

Hudson, *May* 10, 1803.

It is a diſagreeable taſk to propagate bad news; but our duty, as impartial editors, ſometimes requires the performance of it. If we were to follow the example of certain democratic printers, we ſhould obſerve the moſt profound ſilence on the ſubject of our late election; or elſe we ſhould produce ſome new-faſhioned arithmetic to ſhew, that a *majority* is not a *majority*, and that a party *encreases* exactly in proportion as its votes *diminiſh*. But this is not our mode of proceeding. We relate good tidings with pleaſure—and we promptly inform our readers of the *worſt*. Be it known, then, that in the counties of New-York, Richmond, Dutcheſs, Ulſter, Greene, and Renſſelaer, and, we believe in every other county in the ſtate except Albany and Oneida the democratic candidates for members of aſſembly have gained their election.—We learn that in all theſe counties, the greateſt exertions were made by the democrats——and that, in moſt of them, the federaliſts were unpardonably negligent. Hoping ſincerely that they will be more attentive another year, we preſent to their conſideration the following

ORIGINAL ANECDOTE.

A Federaliſt and Democrat were lately converſing about the election, when the federaliſt declared it to be his opinion, that our country was in a perilous condition, and he feared was faſt going to deſtruction. The Democrat, on the contrary, thought the United States was never in ſo proſperous a ſituation; and, the diſpute running high, it was at length agreed to refer the queſtion to an old gentleman (a revolutionary patriot) who was preſent. The old ſoldier declined giving a direct opinion—but, with much good humor, related a ſtory in the following words:—"A jack-tar, growing ſick of his buſineſs, deſerted his ſhip, went into the country, and hired himſelf to a farmer. He was immediately ſet to plowing, with a yoke of oxen and an old mare, called Jin. The ſailor being wholly unacquainted with the management of the *tacks*, *ſheets*, and *bowlines* of his old mare and oxen, in his firſt attempt to *put about*, *miſſed ſtays*, and, by turning the yoke, threw Jin and the oxen all down in a heap together. Jack, frightened with the confuſion, bawled out for help. The farmer aſked, "what's the matter?"—"Matter! Matter enough, by J——s," replied Jack, "*the larboard ox has got on the ſtarboard ſide—old Jin has got foul in the rigging, and they are all going to the devil ſtern-foremoſt.*"

THE WEATHER,

For ſeveral days paſt, has been uncommonly cold for the ſeaſon. On Friday night we had a ſevere froſt; and on Sunday, a conſiderable fall of ſnow. It is apprehended that all kinds of early fruit will be wholly cut off.

On Sunday ſe'nnight, eleven buildings were deſtroyed by fire in Troy.

To Correſpondents.

"OBSERVER," is received, and ſhall be attended to.

We have received a packet of *proſe* and *poetry* from "SIMON SOBERSIDES, Eſq." but none of the pieces are ſufficiently correct for publication.

A packet received through the Poſt-Office contains nothing novel or intereſting.

The Wreath.

FOR THE BALANCE.

JULIENNE is aware of the difficulty of writing any thing new on such a subject as a *Beggar-Boy*. The following was written long since, and is now submitted to the Editors, either to reject or publish.

THE BEGGAR-BOY.

If e'er soft pity touch'd your breast,
One moment stay, while I unfold
The sorrows of a heart unblest;
The wants which make that heart so bold;
But far from me the wish to pain,
Nor would I e'er your bliss alloy;
Much rather would I still remain
A poor and helpless Beggar-Boy.

Oh, say not thus, thou wretched youth;—
That broken sigh, and pallid cheek,
I view as marks of conscious truth—
Then freely all thy troubles speak.
The voice of anguish oft' I hear—
To soothe it is my greatest joy;—
Come witness then this trickling tear—
It falls for the poor Beggar-Boy.

At length then have I found a heart
Where kind compassion rules within;
Your soothing words new life impart;
My mournful tale I'll now begin:
'Tis short—but sad—with patience hear,
And oh! do not those hopes destroy,
For then should soon the lonely bier
Support the wretched Beggar-Boy.

Alas! I never yet have known
The blessings of paternal love;
My father ne'er his son would own;—
Thus was I doom'd through life to roam.
My mother struggled long to save
A life which sorrow did alloy;
But soon she met an early grave,
And left her mourning Beggar-Boy.

Since that I've roam'd from door to door,
With cold and hunger oft' oppress'd;
But now my wearied frame no more
Can bear those wants—it seeks for rest.
From callous wealth I met disdain:
The poor could give me no employ;
My piteous tale was told in vain;
No one would help the Beggar-Boy.

Enough—your miseries now shall end;
My soul delights to give relief;
Your helpless state I will befriend,
And calm the tumults of your grief:
Be quick, and banish every care,
Nor let remembrance damp your joy;
But may you soon forget you were
A lonely, wretched Beggar-Boy.

JULIENNE.

Kingston, Ulster County.

Diversity.

A SEA captain, going a foreign voyage, was requested by a number of ladies of his acquaintance, to purchase them silks; and they gave him their memorandums; but, *except one*, enclosed him no money. After returning from the voyage, the ladies waited on him, and enquired whether the silks were brought. "No, replied the captain, an unlucky accident put it out of my power to oblige you: as soon as we had arrived within sight of port, I took out your memorandums and laid them on the binacle, that I might arrange them in some proper order; when a sudden gust of wind swept them off and scattered them over the water. "That was very odd indeed," exclaimed one of the ladies, in an angry tone; "However, you had the kindness to purchase for Mrs. —— the silk that she sent for." "True, replied the captain, I purchased silks for Mrs. ——; which was owing to a peculiarly fortunate circumstance; for she had the precaution to enclose a number of guineas, which, by their weight, saved her memorandum from being blown away with the others."

CHARLEVOIX relates, that where the river Mississippi, at point Coupee, made a great bend, some Frenchmen, in the year 1722, by deepening the channel of a small brook, turned the waters of the river into it. The impetuosity of the stream was so violent, and the soil of so rich and loose a quality, that in a short time the point was entirely cut through; and travellers saved fourteen leagues of their voyage. The old bed is left dry; and the new channel cannot be sounded with a line of thirty fathoms.

PIETY AND BRAVERY.

THESE two estimable qualities usually accompany each other, at least real piety and true bravery. Sir Humphrey Gilbert, an English Admiral in Queen Elizabeth's time, was an instance of this; he was seen in the dreadful tempest which swallowed up his ship, sitting unmoved in the stern of the vessel, with a book in his hand; and was often heard to say, "Courage, my lads, we are as near heaven at sea as at land." He always wore on his breast a golden anchor, suspended to a pearl, which was given him by Elizabeth.

A POOR Arabian of the desert, ignorant as most Arabians are, was one day asked, how he came to be assured that there was a GOD. "In the same way," replied he, "that I am able to tell by the print impressed on the sand, whether it was a man or a beast that passed that way."

THE French physicians tell us that the climate of France has been very variable lately, and to this is ascribed the late mortality. The political climate, we all know, has been very *variable*; and it certainly cut off great numbers!

[*London paper.*]

QUIN the comedian, and another gentleman, riding one summer's day upon Lansdown, observed, at some distance, a person on horseback, whose *silver* laced coat and waistcoat shone prodigiously in the sun. Several conjectures were formed, respecting the quality of the approaching *meteor*; till at length he came near enough to discover that he was a Bath apothecary, famous for finery and dress. Oh, said the gentleman, 'tis only the *quick silver* doctor at last. Aye, said Quin, in his dry manner, all is not gold that *glysters*, you see.

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